



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1764
Examiner : W. Griffin
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Inventors : Masahito Yoshikawa
 : Hajime Kato
Title : METHOD FOR CONVERTING
 : AROMATIC COMPOUNDS



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AMENDMENT AND ARGUMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated May 29, 2001, Applicants amend as follows:

Version with Markings to Show Changes to the Specification

Kindly amend the Specification as follows:

Page 1, second full paragraph:

As known, zeolite is used for catalysts as a catalyst for conversion of aromatic compounds having substituent(s), for example, for xylene isomerization, toluene disproportionation, etc. It is known that zeolite, especially mordenite-type zeolite is used for conversion of aromatic compounds having at least 3 substituents (Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 14430/1983).

Paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2:

Zeolite is a porous crystal of which the pores are uniform and have a molecular-level size. It can be a catalyst with having good activity and selectivity for conversion of aromatic compounds having a relatively small molecular size, for example, for xylene isomerization, toluene disproportionation or the like, and is so used in some industrial-scal plants. However, for conversion of large-size molecules, using it zeolite is often problematic in that the reactant molecules could not penetrate into the zeolite pores, or even if having penetrated thereinto, they could not diffuse rapidly through the pores to receive satisfactory conversion